

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5349

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 18TH GC: ARAB-MOSLEM RESOLUTION RE JERUSALEM

REFS: A) PARIS 27161 B) PARIS 27150

1. SUMMARY. I WAS CALLED IN BY FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU TONIGHT TO RECEIVE AN APPEAL THAT THE U.S. UNDERTAKE LAST MINUTE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ENOUGH TO TEMPER THE ARAB RESOLUTION. MACOVESCU SAID ROMANIA DESPITE ITS EARLIER ABSTENTION, WOULD HAVE TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION WHICH EMBODIED PRINCIPLES ROMANIA HAD TO SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. MACOVESCU SUMMONED ME AT 9:30 TONIGHT TO ASK THAT I CONVEY URGENTLY TO WASHINGTON ROMANIAN APPEAL THAT U.S. MAKE LAST DITCH EFFORT TO INJECT SOME PROSPECTS OF COMPROMISE TO AVOID TOMORROW'S LIKELY CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM. HE SAID ROMANIA HAD ABSTAINED IN EARLIER VOTES BECAUSE OF HOPES THAT THE ARAB RESOLUTION COULD BE MODIFIED, AND ROMANIA HAD ACTUALLY MADE SOME UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION WITH THE ARABS AND SOME AFRICANS. NOW, HOWEVER, ROMANIA WAS CONFRONTED WITH

APPARENTLY INEVITABLE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION WHICH EMBODIED THREE PRINCIPLES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE A) RESPECT FOR UN RESOLUTIONS B) RESPECT FOR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY RESOLUTIONS AND C) AVOIDANCE OF
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COMPLICATING TYPE ACTIVITIES IN DISPUTED TERRITORIES. UNDER

THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ROMANIA WOULD HAVE TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHY.

3. SUCH A CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, MACOVESCU AGREED WAS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST IN TERMS OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. ON THE OTHER TAND, ISRAELI INTRAN-SIGENCE AND UNWILLINGNESS TO REALIZE THAT THE WORLD HAD CHANGED IN THE

LAST YEAR MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION EITHER. HE FELT THAT PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION TAKEN WITH THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE UN, COULD WELL BE THE BEGINNING

OF A SNOW BALL EFFECT WITH UNTOLD CONSEQUENCES.

4. THE TRICK WAS TO FIND A WAYOUT, WHICH HE FELT COULD ONLY COME IF, ISRAELI COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE A GESTURE, SUCH AS SHOWING

A WILLINGNESS TO SUSPEND THE EXCAVATIONS UNTIL A COMMISSION COULD INSPECT THE SITE. IF A COUNTER RESOLUTION EMBODYING SOME SUCH ELEMENT OF COMPROMISE WERE INTRODUCED, HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A FAIR CHANCE OF SIDE TRACKING THE ARAB RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. ALTERNATIVELY, THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHANCE OF DELAYING THE VOTE FOR A DAY OR SO TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR A COMPROMISE. OTHERWISE MANY U.S. AND ISRAELI SUPPORTERS WOULD JUST BE ABSENT AGAIN TOMORROW AND THE VOTE WOULD GO HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF THE ARAB RESOLUTION. HE HAD CALLED THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

IN JUST BEFORE ME BUT WAS DISCOURAGED AT THE CHANCE OF ANY ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY. KNOWING OF U.S. CONCERN FROM OUR EARLIER DEMARCHE, HE WANTED TO ASK FOR U.S. EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY OUT. I TOLD MACOVESCU THAT WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE PROBLEM BE HANDLED IN A WAY TO HELP AND NOT HINDER THE ALREADY TOO COMPLICATED MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND WERE CONVINCED THE ARAB RESOLUTION WENT IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. SINCE I HAD NO RECENT INFORMATION ON WHAT ACTIONS WE HAD TAKEN AFTER THE INITIAL PARIS VOTES, ALL I COULD DO WAS TO PASS ON HIS APPEAL QUICKLY TO WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: ROMANIA POSITION IS CONSISTENT BOTH WITH EFFORTS TO SUPPORT UN AUTHORITY WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND WITH ATTEMPT
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TO STAY ON REASONABLY GOOD TERMS WITH ARABS AND ISRAELIS. WHEN FACED WITH A CHOICE, ROMANIA APT TO COME DOWN MORE OF LATE ON ARAB/NON-ALIGNED SIDE PARTICULARLY IF PRINCIPLES SEEM TO BE INVOLVED. NONETHELESS, IF, PARIS SITUATION ALLOWS IT AT THIS POINT, USDEL MIGHT FIND IT USEFULL TO CONSULT WITH ROMANIAN DEL, BUT BECAUSE ROMANIANS PREFERRED SOLUTION WOULD STILL BE TO AVOID HAVING TO MAKE CHOICE AND ROMANIAN DEL SHOULD HAVE CONTACTS WITH A VARIETY OF SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION AS WELL AS MODERATES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING PROVIDED WITH ANY MESSAGE I CAN USEFULLY
CONVEY BACK TO MACOVESCU.
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